All employees must be aware of the need to protect themselves and Department of Energy computer systems from attempts by unauthorized individuals to gain access to those systems.

We are all aware that attempts by unauthorized individuals to hack into government and private sector computer systems are on the rise. In addition, hackers are becoming more sophisticated in their attempts to access our systems. It is very common these days for hackers to use e-mails that look very legitimate, and appear to come from actual or legitimate sources.

There are some very basic principles we all should follow while using our e-mail systems at work. First and foremost, if you receive an e-mail from an individual or other entity that you do not know, be very cautious when handling that e-mail. As well, if the subject and/or content of an e-mail strikes you as being suspicious, do not open attachments or activate hyperlinks embedded in that email.

If you have any suspicions about the sources of an e-mail or attachments to an e-mail, stop what you are doing and notify the IT Help Desk at 576- 2482 or IRMD at 576-1414.

Gerald Boyd
Manager